

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus having two power amplifiers in an a BTL configuration for amplifying a speaker, comprising:

detection means for detecting a differential voltage between outputs from the two power amplifiers while an input signal to be supplied to the power amplifiers is ~~muted~~, muted; and

decision means for deciding whether or not said differential voltage is larger than a prescribed voltage.

2. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
volume means for adjusting a signal level of said input signal to the amplifiers; and  
muting means for muting the input signal to be supplied from said volume to the power amplifiers during a prescribed period.

3. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means and the decision means are operated when a power switch is turned on, or a signal source is switched.

4. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said volume means is an electronic volume.

5. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: activation/deactivation means for activating/deactivating the power amplifiers, which deactivates said power amplifiers when it is decided that the differential voltage is larger than said prescribed value by the decision means.

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6. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: switches connected between output terminals from said power amplifiers and the speaker, wherein said switches are turned off when it is decided that the difference voltage is larger than said prescribed value by the decision means so that output signals from said power amplifiers are not supplied to the speaker.

7. (Original) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: warning means for giving a warning when it is decided that said differential voltage is larger than said prescribed value by said decision means.

8. (Currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:  
volume means for adjusting a signal level of said input signal to said power amplifiers;  
and

muting means for muting said input signal to be supplied from said volume during a prescribed period, wherein while the input signal is muted by said muting means, when said power amplifiers are activated by the activation/deactivation means, an operation of the ~~mute~~ muting means is ~~dissolved~~ discontinued after said prescribed period elapses.

9. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

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a first amplifier which at least indirectly receives an input signal;  
a second amplifier which at least indirectly receives the input signal; and  
a control circuit;

wherein the control circuit detects a differential voltage between a first output signal output from the first amplifier and a second output signal output from the second amplifier; and

wherein the control circuit determines whether or not the differential voltage is larger than a prescribed voltage.

10. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit detects the differential voltage when the input signal is muted.

11. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the first output signal.

12. (new) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the control circuit detects the differential voltage when the input signal is muted.

13. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the second amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the second output signal.

14. (new) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the second amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the second output signal.

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15. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, including:  
a volume control circuit adapted to adjust a signal level of the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers; and  
a muting control circuit adapted to mute the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers for a predetermined length of time.

16. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit performs at least one of detecting the differential voltage and determining whether or not the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage responsive to a condition of at least one of a power switch and a signal source.

17. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the input signal is provided by an electronic volume.

18. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, including at least one activation/deactivation circuit adapted to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second amplifiers responsive to the determination of whether or not the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage.

19. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, including a switch between at least one of the first and second amplifiers and a speaker, wherein the switch is adapted to prevent at least one of the first and second output signals from being supplied to the speaker responsive to the determination of whether or not the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage.

20. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, including a warning circuit adapted to activate a warning device responsive to the determination of whether or not the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage.

21. (new) The apparatus of Claim 16, including:  
a volume control circuit adapted to adjust a signal level of the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers; and

a muting control circuit adapted to mute the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers for a predetermined length of time;

wherein at least one of the first and second amplifiers is activated by the activation/deactivation circuit and the muting control circuit removes the mute from the input signal after the predetermined length of time has passed.